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FLORIDA PROMOTES CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

~ Have your child's car seat inspected for maximum protection ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Three out of four child safety seats are installed improperly in vehicles. To help more families buckle up their children properly, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is hosting car seat check events in the coming week. The Department is recognizing *National Child Passenger Safety Week*, Sept. 19 – 25, as a springboard to educate parents and to raise awareness of the national guidelines for putting children in the proper restraint for their age, size and weight.

"The Department encourages everyone transporting a child to use a car seat or booster seat that has been inspected or installed by a certified technician who is trained to ensure the seat provides maximum protection for your child," said Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Executive Director Julie Jones. "The Department provides lifesaving guidance on our website, where busy parents and guardians can review it at a time and location that is convenient to them."

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration research, the proper use of child restraints has saved the lives of 8,325 children under age five during the past 30 years. Research shows that child restraints and boosters provide the best protection for all children up to age eight.

While Florida law requires a separate carrier or a vehicle manufacturer's factory installed seat for children up to age three, the Department encourages parents to use booster seats after children outgrow their car seats. Maximum protection is provided when children ride in booster seats until they are at least age eight or 4'9" tall.

Want to make sure a needy child in your area is safe on the road?
For some parents, purchasing a safety seat for their little ones is a financial burden, but here is how you can help… The next time you register or renew your Florida motor vehicle license tag, you can donate $2 that will help purchase a car seat or booster seat for a child in your own county.

For child safety seat guidelines, visit www.flhsmv.gov/SafetyTips/CPS.htm. For more information on the Department's Child Passenger Safety program, to include contact information to set up an appointment to have your child's safety seat inspected, visit www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/CPS.

See page 2 for details on an upcoming child seat check event in your area.

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles invites you to the *Capital Area Child Seat Check* this Saturday, where parents and guardians can have their children's car seats properly installed or inspected for correct installation at no cost. The event kicks off *National Child Passenger Safety Week* Sept. 19–25.

Details of the event are as follows:

What: Capital Area Child Seat Check

When: Sept. 18, 2010
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Media availability 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Where: Toys "R" Us / Babies "R" Us parking lot
1625 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Who: DHSMV, Florida Department of Transportation, Department of Health, and Safe Kids Florida

The first 50 families to attend will receive a free booster seat for their child.
Child must be present to receive a booster seat, and only one booster per child allowed.

Families who cannot afford car seats will be able to purchase car seats for the low cost of $20 per seat.

All families who attend this event will receive a free window shade.

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